

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 FEA-02 COME-00 AID-20 EB-11

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 DRC-01 /122 W

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O 141610Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5903

CONFIDENTIAL COTONOU 0256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BDIS, ENGR, PFOR, DM, US

SUBJECT: UNION OIL FEBRUARY 15 MEETING WITH MRGD

REF: STATE 029486

FOR AF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROSS

1. I WILL BE SEEING BRANDON OF UNION OIL IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL
ON FEBRUARY 14 TO REVIEW BIDDING BEFORE HIS MEETING WITH MRGD FOLLOWING MORNING. SINCE MY RETURN IN MID-JANUARY I HAVE URGED MRGD FROM PRESIDENT ON DOWN TO RESTART DIALOGUE WITH UNION OIL IN HOPE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WHICH WILL ENABLE DAHOMEY TO HAVE ITS PETROLEUM RESOURCES DEVELOPED. IN SO DOING, I HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT I WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH UNILATERAL ACTION ON JANUARY 8 DENOUNCING 1964 CONVENTION AS DETRIMENTAL TO EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO ATTRACT PRIVATE INVESTMENT, AND THAT AT THIS POINT, FLEXIBILITY MUST BE SHOWN ON BOTH SIDES IF A CONFRONTATION IS TO BE AVOIDED.

2. DIRECTOR OF PLAN ROBERT TAGNON ASKED ME TO MEET WITH HIM TO SEE HOW HE COULD HELP. WHEN WE MET FEBRUARY 14, HE MADE TWO POINTS: (A) ENERGY MINISTER ATCHADE IS HEMMED IN BY HIS OIL TECHNICIANS AND DECISIONS ARE TAKEN AITHOUT REFERENCE TO OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTRIES VIEWS; (B) MRGD'S PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO BEGIN DEVELOPMEN

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OF ITS OIL RESOURCES IMMEDIATELY. IF THERE ARE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
1964 CONVENTION WITH UNION AND NEW PETROLEUM CODE, UNION SHOULD
RAISE THEM WITH ATCHADE IN MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15. IF ATCHADE
AND HIS PEOPLE ARE NOT FLEXIBLE, "BABA MOUSSA AND I SHOULD BE
INFORMED AS PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED COOPERATE WITH UNION OIL
PROVIDED UNION IS READY TO MOVE NOW AND IS FINISHED WITH ITS
TACTICS OF CONSTANT DELAY."

3. EVEN THOUGH I WILL BE RAISING FOREGOING WITH BRANDON, YOU MIGHT
WANT TO PASS THIS ALONG TO HARTLEY OR SLOAT IN LOS ANGELES ALONG
WITH POINTS IN COTONOU 140. IF UNION IS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE,
THERE MIGHT JUST BE A CHANCE OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT SATISFACTORY
TO BOTH SIDES.

ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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